

Funding not received for every registered member



**DARCY MORROW, DIRECTOR,
UNIT IV**

There is a misconception among some members that we receive funding for every registered tribal member. Moreover, that the tribe hoards the funding and only shares it with members

in the services area. That is false, the tribe only receives federal funding for members who reside within our seven-county service area, which is underfunded. An example would be our CHISDA funding (Indian Health Service), this program's service dollars have never been refactored for our tribe. Even though our membership has grown in the service area, our CHISDA funding has continued to be factored off outdated membership numbers.

At this time, with the election coming up, many promises are going to be made and some will include giving services to members outside of the service area. As a board member aware of the tribes' financial obligations, anyone who makes these promises are giving members false hope at this time. When our Lansing

casino overcomes its hurdles, I see the future with Lansing casino opening and revenues flowing up north to bring back services that have been either decreased or taken from members. After we put services back into our service area, then we should be looking at the bigger picture, what can we offer to all members? In addition, we need to put away a certain percentage for our future generations.

We have slowly been able to gain some services back that were taken away from our unit in 2008. Escanaba got an office back and they are able to resume foot clinics, immunizations clinics, medication pick-ups and a place for members to stop in and check on any programs and services the tribe might have available. On March 24, Director Chase and I attended the Escanaba health

office open house. Many tribal elders and other community members came out to celebrate in the Sault Tribe members having an office back in Escanaba. Thank you to all the health staff who helped with set up of the office and helped put on the open house. All your help is very much appreciated!

At the Marquette elders' meeting, it was asked when are they getting their recreation dollars back. At this time, there is no plan or extra tribal support dollars to put this back in place. As a board member, I make tough decisions on many different issues. I agree with the elders when they ask these questions especially when the majority of the board can allow the Sault Big Bear to run fully funded by tribal support dollars at \$800,000 a year. If we

shut this facility down for half a year, it could save \$400,000 in tribal support. We need to use our tribal support dollars to help as many tribal members as we can. I cannot see spending tribal dollars on this facility when elders and members are in need of heating assistance, emergency needs, drivers for medical appointments, etc. If the tribe had extra tribal support dollars and was able to fund all programs and services back to their full capacity, then I would support this facility being open. However, at this time, that is not the case with our tribe.

Any questions, feel free to contact me via phone or email.

Thank you,

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